

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Applicant has withdrawn claims 13-20 from consideration in response to a Restriction Requirement. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because element 120 described in the specification regarding FIG. 1 is not included in FIG. 1. Applicant has amended the specification to include a reference to FIGS. 7 and 8 which include a clear depiction of element 120 when initially referring to reference number 120. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 20010049499 to Lui et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claimed invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed towards a tearable hemostasis valve having a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of a valve body, wherein the snap and fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto a hub of a tubular medical device. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, Lui et al. disclose a splittable medical valve in which a proximal seal is situated within a passageway within the valve body such that sufficient space exists between a proximal seal and a proximal end of the valve body to form a proximal receiving chamber that is configured to accept a dilator hub. The medical valve of Lui et al. further includes a locking lip located at the proximal end of the proximal receiving chamber that helps hold the dilator hub therein. (Lui et al., FIGS. 9 and 31-33; paragraph 52). Thus in Lui et al. a dilator hub passes through a passageway beginning at the distal end of the valve body into a proximal receiving chamber that is configured to accept a dilator hub. Lui et al. do not however, disclose or suggest a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of a valve body, wherein the snap and fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto a hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Lui et al. and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 2-12 that depend from claim 1 is allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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